THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Department of Tourism provides financial assistance to State Governments/UT Administrations every year for the projects which arc prioritised in consultation with them. During 1999-2000 financial assistance was provided for 414 projects. During the year 2000-2001 an amount of Rs. 42.60 crores has been allocated for development of tourist infrastructure in the country which includes 10% *of* the budget earmarked for North Eastern States.

Places of Mythological significance in UNESCO's list

† l064. SMT. SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of places in India registered in the *UNESCO^ list of* places of mythological significance in the world;

(b) the number of proposals sent so far to UNESCO by Government of India in this connection togetherwith the dates of submitting these proposals; and

(c) whether any decision has so far been taken by UNESCO regarding these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Sixteen monuments protected by the Archaeological Survey of India are inscribed on UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites.

(b) Eleven proposals have been sent in June 1998 to UNESCO for inscription as World Heritage Sites.

(c) No decision has so far been taken by UNESCO in the matter.

Tourism Potentiality in Maharashtra

1065. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of tourist spots of Maharashtra listed in the Government of India's Tourism network indicating the allocated

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

amount, amount released and progress made during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and upto July, 2000; and

(b) the specific plan taken up to focus tourism potentiality of Maharashtra State at national and international level?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Development and promotion of tourist places is primarily the responsibility of the State Government /Union Territory concerned. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides central financial assistance on the basis of projects prioritised in consultation with them, subject to availability of funds. Accordingly central financial assistance has been provided to Maharashtra for tourism projects covering several places of tourist interest in the State including the tourist spots of Pune, Aurangabad, Sindhudurg, Kolhapur, Raigad, Nagpur and Thane. The details are as follows:

(Rupees in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Year	No. of projects	Amount sanctioned	Amount released
1.	1998-99	18	496.27	174.67
2.	1999-2000	30	1003.69	169.02

For the year 2000-2001, 11 projects have been prioritised at a cost of appioAimately Rs. 1181.00 lakhs.

(b) The Government is attracting foreign as well as domestic tourists by promoting India including the State of Maharashtra through its 18 overseas offices by advertising in print & electronic media, participations in travel fairs, inviting media, and Travel Agents on fam trip, extensive use of IT in tourism promotion.

Poor condition of Nav Nalanda Mahavihar, Nalanda

1066. VEN'BLE DHAMMAVIRIYO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of the Nav Nalanda Mahavihar has become very bad;

(b) if so, the reasons thearefor; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Non-Indian students are leaving from the Institution?